



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Airpower Summary: Mar 4 – 10, 2012**

### **387th ELRS Combat Truckers are mission complete, roll out for last time**

**SOUTHWEST ASIA** -- The guidon furled silently and slid into its sleeve, signifying the mission was officially complete for the 387th Expeditionary Logistics Squadron during its inactivation ceremony March 6.

Since the mission began in 2003 at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, the Airmen and Soldiers of the 387th ELRS conducted thousands of supply runs into Iraq for Operations IRAQI FREEDOM and NEW DAWN. Rough estimates of the unit's final tallies show these men and women completed more than 1,925 missions and 95 million miles in about eight years.

"While the concept of JET (Joint Expeditionary Task) Airmen is relatively new, the idea of fighting alongside our sister services is not," said Col. Scott DeThomas, 387th Air Expeditionary Group commander. "Yes, today we close a chapter on a joint mission well done but we all know the opportunity will present itself again in the future, and we hope for that same level of cooperation and support to ensure the success of our great nation."

During their missions, the combat truckers faced blistering heat and freezing cold, sand and dust storms, and a lot of vehicle issues on an-almost daily basis. They also overcame numerous insurgent attacks, improvised explosive devices and poor road conditions to get mission-essential equipment to military units and forward operating bases throughout Iraq.

"It wasn't about long hours on the road, eating hundreds of MREs, or not getting enough sleep on hard cots," said Lt. Col. John O'Connor, 387th ELRS commander. "It was about watching Airmen come together from different bases and career fields, forming a solid team and completing the mission when they arrived in country."

"If it wasn't for the joint team, we wouldn't have made it this far," O'Connor said. "So you better tell your kids, and tell your grandkids what you did here, because you made history... I'd like to think that [our fallen] Airmen are looking down upon us right now, because they are proud of you. I'd like to think they've been watching over us, through all the IEDs, the IFPs and all the craziness."

"Each and every one of you did a fantastic job; you are the best," he continued. "Thank your families, thank all the folks back home, and especially thank those who we lost doing this mission. Thank you all, and Godspeed."



U.S. Air Force 387th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron combat truckers fold the Air Force flag during their inactivation ceremony at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, March 6, 2012. The 387th ELRS participated in the largest retrograde of cargo and personnel since World War II; U.S. Central Command approved the 387th ELRS as "mission complete" and authorized them to inactivate on Dec. 20, 2011. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. James Lieth/Released)

For the full article or to download high resolution photographs, visit

<http://www.afcent.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123293052>

The Combined Forces Air Component Commander's airpower data for the week of 4 – 10 Mar 2012:

### Airpower Summary for the week of Mar 4 - 10, 2012

Close Air Support	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	TOTAL
Operation Enduring Freedom	53	77	71	80	81	70	70	502
Weapons Releases								
OEF	0	7	11	13	1	1	3	36
ISR								
OEF	89	105	95	114	114	106	94	717
Combined Data								
Airlift Sorties	97	133	110	124	123	121	115	823
Airlift Cargo (Short Tons)	699	782	943	563	526	837	609	4,959
Airlift Passengers	2,251	2,311	2,681	3,073	2,577	2,890	1,943	17,726
Tanker Sorties	36	48	44	48	44	37	38	295
Fuel Offloaded (Thousands of Pounds)	2,548	3,146	2,946	3,192	3,274	2,739	2,756	20,601
Aircraft Refueled	155	208	200	206	235	162	172	1,338
PR/Medevac Sorties	20	15	19	15	19	9	15	112
Saves	2	1	4	3	1	1	2	14
Assist	7	8	4	2	6	0	4	31

(To see the complete CFACC Airpower Statistics, current as of January 31, 2011, please visit:  
<http://www.afcent.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-120205-001.pdf>

- 30 -

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